

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-27 are presently active in this case. Claims 1-21 are amended and Claims 22-27 are added by the present amendment. Support for the amendments can be found at least in the original claims and at page 19, lines 1-9 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

The outstanding Office Action objects to the disclosure because of informalities; objects to Fig. 6; rejects Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 13, 16, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Imaizumi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,593,935, herein "Imaizumi"); rejects Claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Imaizumi in view of Katto (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,277); rejects Claims 4 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Imaizumi in view of Suzuki, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,552, herein "Suzuki"); and rejects Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Imaizumi in view of Shyu (U.S. Patent No. 5,990,876).

In regard to the objection to the disclosure, the Abstract and the specification are amended, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

In regard to the objection to Fig. 6, the specification is amended to describe step S7 in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

In regard to the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 13, 16, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Imaizumi, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a device for processing images comprising, *inter alia*, a distribution-measurement unit configured to measure a distribution of a plurality of color

components and a memory-control unit configured to release at least one memory space assigned to a part of encoded image data and record data indicative of one of the plurality of color components in a memory unit, when the distribution concentrates on the one of the plurality of color components. The part of the encoded image data represents a plurality of color components.

Imaizumi does not disclose or suggest the above-mentioned memory-control unit feature of Claim 1, as amended. The outstanding Office Action cites reference numeral 2037 of Fig. 3, column 8, lines 12-17, and column 8, lines 39-46 of Imaizumi to meet the above-mentioned memory-control unit feature of Claim 1, as amended; however, this feature is not disclosed in Imaizumi. In Imaizumi,

[a] divider divides the image data, which have been subjected to the background removal, to a plurality of blocks, and an attribute discriminator means discriminates an attribute of image data in each block.<sup>1</sup>

Attributes to be discriminated are white background attribute, black character attribute, uniform attribute, monochrome attribute and color attribute.<sup>2</sup>

An attribute memory 205 stores 2-bit attribute data obtained by attribute discrimination of every 8\*8 pixels of the image of the document by the attribute discriminator 203.<sup>3</sup>

The attribute is decided as "white background attribute" when the gradation level amplitude data is equal to or smaller than a predetermined value (a uniform image), the average value data is equal to or larger than a predetermined value (a low gradation level), and the chromaticity value data is equal to or smaller than a predetermined value (an achromatic color).<sup>4</sup>

When the document is decided to have a high ratio of the white background attribute to the whole document according to the attribute discrimination in the units of page, the color/monochrome signal is set to the monochrome and the secondary compression ON/OFF signal is set to ON. In this case, the attributes are of two types: the white background and others. The attribute data is expressed as 1-bit attribute data, and the number of attribute data is reduced by half.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Col. 1, lines 48-53 of Imaizumi.

<sup>2</sup> Col. 3, lines 44-46 of Imaizumi.

<sup>3</sup> Col. 3, lines 33-36 of Imaizumi.

<sup>4</sup> Col. 7, lines 17-23 of Imaizumi.

<sup>5</sup> Col. 8, lines 39-46 of Imaizumi.

In other words, in Imaizumi, an attribute discriminator means discriminates an attribute of image data in each block. Attributes to be discriminated are a white background attribute, black character attribute, uniform attribute, monochrome attribute, and color attribute. Accordingly, two bits are required to store the attribute data. However, when a document has a high ratio of the white background attribute, the attribute discriminator means discriminates only two types of attributes (i.e., the white background and other) and only one bit is required to store the attribute data.

However, Imaizumi does not disclose or suggest releasing of a memory space assigned to a part of encoded image data, the part representing the plurality of color components, when a distribution of a plurality of color components concentrates on one of the plurality of color components, as recited in Claim 1, as amended. Nor does Imaizumi disclose or suggest recording of data indicative of one of the plurality of color components in a memory unit when the distribution concentrates on the one of the plurality of color components, as recited in Claim 1, as amended.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn. Independent Claims 8, 16, and 19, although of different statutory class or of different scope, include recitations similar to those in Claim 1 discussed above. Claims 2, 5, 9, 10, and 13 depend on Claim 1 or 8. For at least the reasons given above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 2, 5, 8-10, 13, 16, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn as well.

In regard to the rejection of Claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Imaizumi in view of Katto, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Claims 3 and 11 depend on Claim 1 or 8. As discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 8, Imaizumi does not teach or suggest each and every element recited in Claim 1 or 8. For

example, Imaizumi does not teach or suggest at least a memory-control unit configured to release at least one memory space assigned to a part of encoded image data, the part of the encoded image data representing a plurality of color components, and record data indicative of one of the plurality of color components in a memory unit, when a distribution of the plurality of color components concentrates on the one of the plurality of color components, as recited in Claims 1 and 8. Katto does not cure the deficiencies of Imaizumi.

In view of the failure of Imaizumi and Katto to teach or suggest all features of Claim 1 or 8, Applicants respectfully submit that Imaizumi in view of Katto does not render Claim 1 or 8 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Since Claims 3 and 11 depend on Claim 1 or 8, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In regard to the rejection of Claims 4 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Imaizumi in view of Suzuki, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Claims 4 and 12 depend on Claim 1 or 8. As discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 8, Imaizumi does not teach or suggest each and every element recited in Claim 1 or 8. For example, Imaizumi does not teach or suggest at least a memory-control unit configured to release at least one memory space assigned to a part of encoded image data, the part of the encoded image data representing a plurality of color components, and record data indicative of one of the plurality of color components in a memory unit, when a distribution of the plurality of color components concentrates on the one of the plurality of color components, as recited in Claims 1 and 8. Suzuki does not cure the deficiencies of Imaizumi.

In view of the failure of Imaizumi and Suzuki to teach or suggest all features of Claim 1 or 8, Applicants respectfully submit that Imaizumi in view of Suzuki does not render Claim 1 or 8 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Since Claims 4 and 12 depend on Claim 1 or 8,

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 4 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In regard to the rejection of Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Imaizumi in view of Shyu, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 21 depend on Claim 1, 8, 16, or 19. As discussed above with respect to Claims 1, 8, 16, and 19, Imaizumi does not teach or suggest each and every element recited in Claim 1, 8, 16, or 19. For example, Imaizumi does not teach or suggest at least a memory-control unit configured to release at least one memory space assigned to a part of encoded image data, the part of the encoded image data representing a plurality of color components, and record data indicative of one of the plurality of color components in a memory unit, when a distribution of the plurality of color components concentrates on the one of the plurality of color components, as recited in Claims 1 and 8 and as similarly recited in Claims 16 and 19. Shyu does not cure the deficiencies of Imaizumi.

In view of the failure of Imaizumi and Shyu to teach or suggest all features of Claim 1, 8, 16, or 19, Applicants respectfully submit that Imaizumi in view of Shyu does not render Claim 1, 8, 16, and 19 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Since Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 21 depend on Claim 1, 8, 16, or 19, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

New dependent Claims 22-27 depend from Claim 1, 8, 16, or 19. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 22-27 are allowable at least for the reasons given above with respect to Claims Claim 1, 8, 16, and 19 in addition to the novel and non-obvious features recited therein.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that each and every one of Claims 1-27 defines patentable subject matter, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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